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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/918,569	08/01/2001	Kenji Sakanoue	035532-0107	3550

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EXAMINER

SLACK, NAOKO N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/918,569	SAKANOUE ET AL.
	Examiner Naoko Slack	Art Unit 3635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 2,3,15 and 16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 and 4-14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's Amendment has been carefully considered. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled as requested.

Newly submitted claims 15 and 16 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed for the following reasons: they pertain to method claims not included in the original presentation of article claims.

Since applicant has received an action on the merits for the originally presented invention, this invention has been constructively elected by original presentation for prosecution on the merits. Accordingly, claims 15 and 16 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. See 37 CFR 1.142(b) and MPEP § 821.03.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 2,408,704 to Taylor in view of US 2813767 to Berg et al. and US Patent 2,686,703 to Nave et al.

Prior art to Taylor discloses a door (6) presses from a sheet of metal to form a concave (9) with marginal flange (10) engaging the step (26) of the closure (24) which

covers the concave. The door has spherically shaped corners and curved areas connecting front, side, and bottom surfaces (Figure 2). While prior art to Taylor fails to disclose decorations on the front face of the door and inner face of the display concave, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form decorations on such surfaces for aesthetic reasons or advertisement purposes.

Similarly, there are many examples of prior art showing variations in radius of curvature of the door at the corners. While Taylor fails to show a door whose cross-section comprises a curved surface from the top to the side such that the radius of curvature is reduced toward the rear of the door, such designs are well known in the art. For example, Berg et al. shows a door cross-section in Figure 2 where the radius of curvature is clearly greater at the exterior corner (7) of the door and decreases toward the rear. Likewise, Nave et al. shows this same feature of decreasing radius of curvature toward the rear. In view of Berg et al. and Nave et al., it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate Taylor's door with rounded corners such that the radius of curvature decreases towards the rear for producing a smoother transition to the body of the cooling machine. Taylor would be motivated to provide a smoother transition and sleeker profile as he is concerned with forming a flush exterior (column 1, lines 43-44, and column 2, lines 15-18) for preventing the collection of dust or dirt on the machine.

Prior Art Made of Record

The following references show door structure including a radius of curvature that decrease toward the rear of the door structure: US Patents 2903315, 2741100, and 2740266.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Naoko Slack whose telephone number is (703) 305-0315. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (6:00 am-2:30pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl D. Friedman can be reached on (703) 308-0839. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9326 for regular communications and (703) 872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.


NS
March 12, 2003


Carl D. Friedman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600